

Outbreak Serology/Rubella Specimen Collection and Transport Procedure

Specimen Requirements

Submit at least 1 mL of serum in a screw-capped tube. Alternatively, collect at least 5-7 mL of whole blood in a serum separator or red-top tube. Label the specimen tube with name or patient ID, and collection date.

Sampling Materials

1. Serum/blood collection materials, including serum separator tubes or red-top tubes.
2. Cold packs.
3. Shipping boxes or containers with appropriate shipping labels.
 - a. UN3373 Biological Substances, Category B shipping container or
 - b. 9A container provided by ISDH.
4. Completed ISDH request form or LimsNet cover page.

Procedural Notes

1. Label the tube with name or ID and collection date.
2. Collect acute serum.
3. Complete the ISDH request form, ensuring that the patient information on the collection tube matches the information on the form. Request form must also include submitter name/address, patient date of birth or age, sex, race, county of residence, lab tests desired, and reason for testing.
4. Alternatively, complete a LimsNet entry for the patient, including the same patient information as for ISDH form.
5. Specimens lacking completed information will not be tested.
6. Be sure to keep the specimens refrigerated at 4 C prior to shipping to minimize hemolysis. Hemolyzed specimens will not be tested.
7. Extremely lipemic specimens will not be tested. Certain patients may need to fast before blood draw.

Shipping Instructions

1. Place documents in outer container or in plastic bag to prevent contamination from specimen.
2. Wrap the labeled specimen tube with absorbent material and place in the inner shipping canister.
3. Place the inner shipping canister in the outer shipping canister along with the completed requisition form.
4. Place the specimen(s) in a Styrofoam container with sufficient cold packs to maintain 4°C during shipment.
5. Complete the pre-addressed mailing label and affix to the outer packaging with a return address and appropriate postage.
6. Specimens should be shipped to arrive at ISDH Monday through Friday. Shipping specimens which will be in transit during the weekend or holiday is not recommended.